

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-5. (Canceled)

6. (New) A recycling system for recycling reusable articles each bearing an identification code showing at least a name, a size, and a weight of a corresponding article, said recycling system comprising:

a control center operable to supervise a plurality of manufacturers that manufacture contents of the reusable articles, supervise a plurality of users that consume the contents of the articles delivered from the manufacturers, supervise a plurality of forwarders that retrieve the empty articles that remain after the contents have been consumed by the users, and supervise a plurality of recyclers that renew the articles delivered from the forwarders;

wherein the control center is operable to contact one of the forwarders and to instruct the forwarder to retrieve and deliver the empty reusable articles to one of the recyclers when a request to retrieve empty reusable articles is received from one of the users;

wherein the control center is operable to check the identification codes associated with the retrieved empty reusable articles in order to determine the manufacturer or manufacturers that supplied the retrieved empty reusable articles to the user; and

wherein the control center is operable to contact the recycler and instruct the recycler to deliver renewed empty reusable articles bearing the identification codes to one of the manufacturers when an order for the renewed empty reusable articles is received from the manufacturer.

7. (New) The recycling system as claimed in claim 6, further comprising:

a data base file in which at least one of telephone numbers and facsimile numbers of each of the users is linked to the address and name of each of the users such that the recycling system can determine the address and name of any of the users that have contacted the recycling system by telephone or facsimile.

8. (New) The recycling system as claimed in claim 6, further comprising:

a data base file in which area codes of telephone numbers and facsimile numbers of the users are linked to areas where the respective users are located so that the recycling system can select the forwarder nearest to a particular user.

9. (New) The recycling system as claimed in claim 6, wherein the locations of the user, the forwarder, and the recycler are indicated in terms of coordinates on a map.

10. (New) The recycling system as claimed in claim 6, wherein at least part of a data communication between any of the manufacturers, the users, the forwarders, and the recyclers is carried out through the Internet.

11. (New) A recycling method for recycling reusable articles each bearing an identification code, said method comprising:

receiving a request from one of a plurality of users to retrieve empty reusable articles from the user, wherein the request includes the identification codes associated with the empty reusable articles;

selecting one of a plurality of forwarders;

providing the selected forwarder with information on the reusable articles on the basis of the identification codes;

instructing the selected forwarder to retrieve the empty reusable articles from the user, and to deliver the retrieved empty reusable articles to one of a plurality of recyclers;

receiving an order from one of a plurality of manufacturers for a plurality of recycled empty reusable articles; and

contacting the recycler, and instructing the recycler to deliver the recycled empty reusable articles bearing the identification codes to the manufacturer.

12. (New) The recycling method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising:

automatically determining an address of the user based on information included in the request to retrieve empty reusable articles.

13. (New) The recycling method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising:

checking the identification codes of the retrieved empty reusable articles in order to determine, for each of the retrieved empty reusable articles, which of the plurality of manufacturers manufactured the retrieved empty reusable article.

14. (New) The recycling method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising:
receiving a report from the recycler, wherein the report indicates that the retrieved empty reusable articles have been cleaned.

15. (New) The recycling method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the recycler cleans the retrieved empty reusable articles.

16. (New) The recycling method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the recycler repairs the retrieved empty reusable articles.

17. (New) The recycling method as claimed in claim 11, wherein each of the identification codes indicates at least a name, a size and a weight of a corresponding reusable article.